

## THE JOURNAL OF THE MALTESE DIASPORA

## MALTESE NEWSLETTER

BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN MALTESE ALL OVER THE WORLD



## 8 INSPIRING QUOTES FROM POPE FRANCIS' ADDRESS TO CONGRESS



Pope Francis delivers a much-anticipated speech between Vice President Joe Biden, left, and Speaker of the House John Boehner, right, on the floor of the House of Representatives to Congress in the in Washington DC, on September 24, 2015. (Photo: Drew Angerer, EPA)

Pope Francis on Thursday called on Americans to embrace immigrants across the globe during his 45-minute address to a joint meeting of Congress. He also spoke about the importance of family, combating violence and fighting poverty. Here is a collection of pivotal quotes from the pontiff:

1. "We, the people of this continent, are not fearful of foreigners, because most of us once were foreigners."

2. "Our efforts must aim at restoring hope, righting wrongs, maintaining commitments, and thus promoting the well-being of individuals and of peoples."

3. "A delicate balance is required to combat violence perpetrated in the name of a religion, an ideology or an economic system, while also safeguarding religious freedom, intellectual freedom and individual freedoms. But there is another temptation which we must especially guard against: the simplistic reductionism which sees only good or evil; or, if you will, the righteous and sinners."

4. "To imitate the hatred and violence of tyrants and murderers is the best way to take their place."

5. "In a word, if we want security, let us give security; if we want life, let us give life; if we want opportunities, let us provide opportunities."

6. "The fight against poverty and hunger must be fought constantly and on many fronts, especially in its causes."

7. "Here we have to ask ourselves: Why are deadly weapons being sold to those who plan to inflict untold suffering on individuals and society? Sadly, the answer, as we all know, is simply for money: money that is drenched in blood, often innocent blood."

8. "Fundamental relationships are being called into question, as is the very basis of marriage and the family. I can only reiterate the importance and, above all, the richness and the beauty of family life."



## GLOBAL CRISIS - SYRIAN REFUGEES

Hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees have fled violence and conflict and are journeying towards Europe seeking shelter and support.

This is now the biggest refugee crisis the world has seen since World War II.

Worsening conditions for refugees in Syria and the region are driving despair and sending thousands of people towards Europe. The Syrian war has forced more than 4 million refugees to flee to neighbouring countries and beyond. 85% of the people arriving in Europe are from conflict countries; more than half are from Syria. Syrian refugees are risking their lives to reach Europe, because they have given up all hope of starting a new life inside Syria or in neighbouring countries. The risk has proved fatal; more than 2,800 people have died crossing the Mediterranean so far this year.

Within Syria, more than 7 million people have been forced from their homes. A quarter of schools have been damaged or shut down and more than half of Syria's hospitals have been destroyed. UNHCR staff report that electricity in most major centres is only available 2 to 4 hours per day. Fighting has intensified over the past few months; people have now lost their jobs and income as well as losing their homes.



Outside of Syria, thousands of refugees have now spent years in exile. With their savings drained and employment opportunities thin on the ground, Syrian refugee families are sliding into poverty. In Lebanon, 70 per cent of Syrian refugee families are living far below the national poverty line; in Jordan the number of refugees living in poverty is even higher at 86 per cent.

In the face of aid cuts and dwindling international support, refugees have pulled their children out of school and have resorted to begging in order to feed their children. It is these extreme conditions that drive despair and cause thousands of people to make the hazardous journey towards Europe.

UNHCR is on the ground at every stage of the refugee journey providing desperately needed support – inside Syria, in neighbouring countries and beyond. Please give refugees fleeing conflict countries the help they desperately need.

<http://www.unrefugees.org.au/>



SPEAKING OUT: Archbishop Fisher delivers his Defence of the Faith lecture to the Order of Malta in Sydney.

## SAME-SEX MARRIAGE NOT A "DONE DEAL"

By Jenny Brinkworth **SOUTHERN CROSS** – Sep 2015

The push to redefine marriage in Australia is not a "done deal" and those who resist it are not all bigots, says Sydney Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP.

In an address to the Order of Malta NSW branch in late July, Archbishop Fisher said too much of the debate on the issue so far in Australia had been "slogans, emotional spin and almost unprecedented public bullying of opponents". "The real debate has hardly begun and we should resist being railroaded into this social change too quickly," he said in his Defence of the Faith

lecture at St Mary's Cathedral Hall.

With the Federal Coalition proposing a referendum or plebiscite on the issue after the next election and a bill to change the current definition before Parliament, debate on same-sex marriage has intensified. It comes as the Adelaide Archdiocese restates its commitment to families and marriage.

TV commercials produced by traditional marriage group Marriage Alliance were aired on one channel and online but two channels refused to broadcast them, prompting the group to write letters of concern over freedom of speech to Prime Minister, Opposition Leader and Communications Minister. Writing in The Australian recently, Hobart Archbishop Julian

Porteous said to oppose changing the Marriage Act was not "homophobic or dangerous to those who have same-sex attraction".

"In a democratic society we need to ensure that everyone is given the opportunity to put their case for public policy reform and have that case exposed to rigorous and critical examination," he wrote. "In all this debate over marriage we have forgotten the reason society has singled out the marriage relationship for particular legal recognition and support.

"Marriage is ultimately about children. Social science studies overwhelmingly show that, all things being equal, children do best when reared by their biological parents in a loving married relationship.

"We all yearn to know where we come from and to grow up with our biological mother and father, who have committed themselves to each other in a relationship of lifelong sexual fidelity. "Married love is fundamentally different from other types of love because it has the unique capacity to generate children."

Archbishop Fisher said there was only one reason why Governments needed to be involved in a natural institution that pre-exists church and state: "Because the 'marital acts' that bring children into the world also seal and express the 'marital unions' that provide for the long-term nurture of those children. Marriage binds those whose love-making was life-making both to each other as husband and wife and to those children as mother and father. The benefits to children of having the contributions of both a mum and a dad, committed to each other and to them over the long haul, are well-established in human experience and social science research."

## GUZE' CHETCUTI

Ġużè Chetcuti twieled Bormla fil-11 ta' Awwissu 1914. Beda l-karriera tiegħu ta' għalliem. Fl-1940, meta faqqgħet il-gwerra ssieheb mal-istaff editorjali tal-Uffiċċju tal-Infurmazzjoni bħala subeditur u traduttur tas-*Service Bulletin* u tal-*Malta Review*. Fis-snin tal-gwerra kien wiehded mit-tliet *announcers* uffiċjali.

Chetcuti daħal fid-Dipartiment tal-Edukazzjoni u għalliem il-Malti l-Liċeo (1956-1974) u għal sentejn ta' lezzjonijiet tal-Malti fil-Mater Admirabilis Training College (ir-Rabat, Malta) u fl-Upper Secondary School (Sixth Form), il-Liċeo għal għaxar snin (1964-1974). Għalliem ukoll fl-Emergency Teachers' Maturity Course u għal diversi snin kien eżaminatur tal-Malti f'eżamijiet taċ-Ċivil u tal-Pulizija.

Inħatar membru akkademiku fl-1937 u fis-snin tal-gwerra mill-1940 sal-1948 kien Segretarju tal-Għaqda tal-Kittieba tal-Malti (illum l-Akkademja tal-Malti) meta Dun Karm, il-poeta nazzjonali u, warajh, il-Professur Ġużè Galea, kienu Presidenti; subeditur tar-rivista letterarja *Il-Malti*, ta l-għajnuna tiegħu għal snin twal fil-pubblikazzjoni tar-rivista letterarja *Lehen il-Malti* maħruġa mill-Għaqda tal-Malti - Università. Kien Viċi President (1990-1992), President Onorarju (1998-1999), u President tas-sottokomitat tal-ortografija.

Kien ukoll membru onorarju tal-Għaqda Poeti Maltin, membru fil-kunsill u segretarju tal-Malta Drama League u fundatur tax-Xirka għat-Tixrid tal-Ilsien Malti (1939) flimkien mat-tabib Ġużè Bonnici u l-avukat Anton Buttigieg, li wara sar it-tieni President tar-Repubblika ta' Malta.

Mill-Għaqda Poeti Maltin ngħata ċ-Città di Valletta fl-1986 u fl-1996 l-Istat ħatru Membru tal-Ordni Nazzjonali tal-Mertu (MOM).

Fost kotba oħra ta' Chetcuti nsibu *Hbiebi l-Awturi Maltin* (2000), *Kittieba Hbiebi* (2002), *Antologija ta' Proża Maltija* (2000), *Poeżiji Miġbura 1930-2000* (2000), *Stilistika Maltija u Movimenti Letterarji Oħra* (1985) u *Tgħalliem il-Malti f'20 lezzjoni* (1986).

Ġużè Chetcuti miet nhar it-Tlieta, 18 ta' Lulju 2006 fl-età ta' 91 sena.



## Grazzi hafna

tal-MalteseNewsletter 95. Imma grazzi akbar u prosi ta' dak il-ktieb mill-isbah dwar kif Malta serviet ta' "Nurse of the Mediterranean" fl-Ewwel; Gwerra Dinjija. Kull min jara l-ktieb jitpaxxa bih. Urejt u lill-uliedi u n-neputijiet u kulhadd l-istess kumment: "Kem hu sabih!" Min jaf kemm hadlek sghat ta' riera ktaieb bhal dak. Nifrahlek minn qalbi. Tislijiet Lina Brockdorff (Malta)

*We still have few copies of the limited edition of this book. Don't miss out. Buy one for your home library and for your kids. They need to know the significant role Malta played during World War1 (1914-18) .*

Contact me; [honconsul@live.com.au](mailto:honconsul@live.com.au)

## FILM IN MALTESE WITH ENGLISH SUB-TITLES SIMSHAR

In Cinemas from October 1

Cast Lotfi Abdelli, Jimi Busuttil, Sékouba Doucouré

Synopsis \*\*Language: Maltese, English (subtitled)\*\*

Young Theo is sent on his first trip with his Maltese sea faring family, but things go terribly wrong when the 'Simshar' sinks, leaving the crew stranded in the Mediterranean... Simultaneously, Alex - a medic reluctantly dispatched onto a Turkish Merchant vessel which has rescued a group of stranded African boat people between Malta and Italy - gets stuck on the boat as the countries wage a bureaucratic war over who should take in the migrants... The stories unravel in parallel and culminate tragically when the fishermen are traced down, but by that time there's only one survivor.

### TRAK CINEMA CENTRE (TRAK CINEMA)

Tel: 08 8332 8020

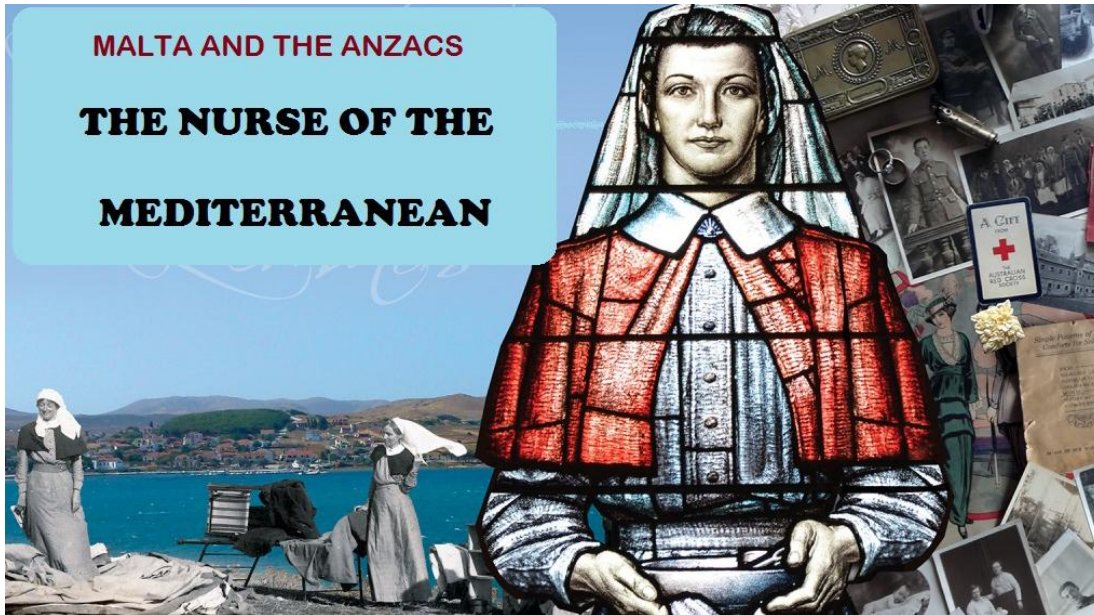
Address: 375 Greenhill Road,

Toorak Gardens, South Australia, 5065



#### WHAT IS SIMSHAR?

- A film about human survival inspired by true, contemporary, stories.
- A cast of internationally recognized actors.
- A crew of professionals that have been working in the industry for years, and are joining forces for this passion project.
- A national effort, supported by the Malta Film Fund and Malta Film Commission, sponsored by Movie People and Godwin's Garage. Very special thanks to Azzopardi Fisheries, Farsons, Gormina and Neriku.
- A film produced by YOU via Indiegogo!



**MALTA AND THE ANZACS**  
**THE NURSE OF THE**  
**MEDITERRANEAN**

“Malta and the ANZACS – The Nurse of the Mediterranean” written by Frank Scicluna OAM Honorary Consul for Malta in South Australia records in detail the long, extensive and dedicated involvement of the Islands of Malta in the treatment and care of the wounded and sick

soldiers during WW1 especially from Gallipoli and also Salonika. At one time there were fifteen hospitals at Malta each designated to treat specific wounds such as, amputation, eye injuries, and infectious diseases.

The medical staff, nurses, porters, and volunteers were made up of people from Malta, England, Australia, New Zealand and other countries, at times with 24,486 beds by 1916, of wounded and sick soldiers in various stages of recovery to care for. As needs required the civil authorities of Malta showed remarkable flexibility in refurbishing suitable buildings, upgrading sanitation, and adding kitchens, even to the extent of asking the local community to donate a bed from each family so that the wounded could be cared for.

To help maintain the spirits/mental health of recovering soldiers, the local Maltese community and Red Cross set up tea shops, and other entertainments where convalescing soldiers could meet up with mates giving these soldiers the chance to talk through with others the horrors of what they had been through together.

The often stated phase “a picture says a thousand words” is well supported by the many quality photos, documents and pictures in the book which help to record this momentous time in Malta.

Throughout the book there is a sense of caring and compassion for the wounded that unexpectedly arrived in vast numbers at Malta and were treated with the best medical care available at the time.

“Malta and the ANZACS” continues the tradition of keeping alive the enormous unselfish contribution made by Malta and its people and the very significant respect felt by the Maltese for the ANZACS.

I sincerely commend this book for recording the overwhelming dedication and generosity of Malta and its people.

**Review by Jolyon A. Gemmell – South Australia – Sept. 2015**



## Slippery slope of world fame - GOSTRA

*Allied Newspapers Group managing director Adrian Hillman presenting Daniel Caruana with a copy of The Times Picture Annual, which features his run on the cover. Photo: Matthew Mirabelli*

It has been named one of the most surprising photos of the year by Time magazine, and it has made it to the Wall Street Journal, The Sunday Times of London and to the BBC's best pictures of the year.

The photo of the Gostra Man, as he wobbled his way up the St Julian's greased pole taken in August by Times of Malta and Reuters photographer Darrin Zammit Lupi has been published in newspapers the world over: from Poland to Peru, Turkey to Taiwan, India, Italy and everywhere in between.

Daniel Caruana missed the flag as he wobbled his way up the St Julian's gostra in 2013 but he captured more than he hoped for when pictures of his gravity-defying stunt hit the pages of major international news titles.

Mr Caruana, known as Il-Ganga, was awestruck when the photo taken by Times of Malta photographer Darrin Zammit Lupi was seen by millions across the world.



The pictures, taken last weekend, appeared on the largest international websites such as those of Time Magazine, the Daily Mail and The Washington Post besides flashing across screens from Venezuela to Russia and Malaysia and everywhere in between.

What sold the picture was, most likely, the unique combination of Mr Caruana's heavy set physique and the rather hazardous act of running up a greasy pole.

No sooner had the picture appeared on the Daily Mail website than comparisons began to Kung Fu Panda, a Dreamworks animated superhero character that revolves around an exceptionally-agile panda adept at the ancient Chinese martial art.

Mr Caruana said it crossed his mind to reply to the comments in this vein but, in the end, he did not bother and instead challenged

them to beat him at the gostra.

The 32-year-old oil rig worker has been climbing the lard-covered pole since he was five years old and takes part whenever he has the chance because of the nature of his work. He missed the past four years but, participating this year had its rewards even though he failed three times to get one of the coveted flags.

So what's his strategy to reach the end of the pole? "Just keep going non-stop," he says with a big smile.

The tradition dates back to the 1800s and forms an integral part of the feast of St Julian's.

The 65-foot long wooden pole is placed at an angle covered in 15 litres of lard and four flags placed at the very end.

Members of the gostra club run up the pole in 15-minute intervals to remove as much lard as possible before attempting the dash for a flag.

But not just anyone can take part. According to the entry requirements, one has to be a resident of St Julian's and form part of a team of volunteers who help set up decorations for the village feast.



stones in Scottish.

The Maltese have played an integral part in the history of Greystanes' growth. Frank Cefai, a Maltese migrant, is a well-known developer who established suburban life through the construction of residential homes, schools and parishes in the 1950s.

"I still remember knocking down the poultry farms and market gardens to build homes so people could start living here," he said. "I had the honour of placing the foundation stone at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish with the Archbishop of Sydney."

The Parish Church was built when Fr Roland Darmania was Parish Priest. It was blessed and opened by His Eminence, Sir James Darcy Cardinal Freeman on 20th April, 1975. After extensive renovations it was solemnly dedicated by Bishop Bede Heather on 7th July, 1996.

## MALTESE POULTRY FARMS AT GREYSTANES – LITTLE MALTA

Frank Cefi. 17, February, 2014. Picture: Gene Ramirez

HOME to about 23,000 people, Greystanes had humble beginnings nearly 70 years ago when the area was mainly used to farm poultry.

Named after a historical house on Prospect Hill built by Nelson Simmons Lawson, "grey" referred to the colour and "stanes" meant



The name changed after unrest between the new settlers and the Darug people, initial occupants, led to a divide in the area. The division left Prospect in the west of Greystanes and Greystanes at east of the creek. Nowadays, the suburb has schools, churches, parks, sporting facilities and community centres.

**History** In the early years of British settlement the area was known as Prospect Hill and was the site of the first land grants to emancipated convicts in 1791. At this period it was one of several areas of conflict between the Darug people and the settlers, the Darug people being led for many years of guerrilla warfare by Pemulwuy.

The area later became differentiated into Prospect, to the west of Greystanes Creek, and Greystanes to the east of the Creek, the latter taking its name from a historical home on Prospect Hill, built by Nelson Simmons Lawson, third child of Lieutenant William Lawson. The name 'Grey Stanes', given by Nelson Lawson, came from the outcrops of basalt on Prospect Hill, "Grey" being its colour and "Stanes" being the Scottish word for stones. The land was originally granted to William Cummings in 1799, before being acquired by William Lawson in approximately 1810.<sup>[3]</sup>

The area was used for poultry farming in the early twentieth century until Greystanes developed in the 1950s and 1960s as a residential suburb. Frank Cefai, a Maltese migrant, is a well known developer who built thousands of residential homes throughout Greystanes and its surrounding suburbs. Frank built and helped fund the Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church in 1975 and the surrounding primary and secondary schools.<sup>[4]</sup>

**Culture** Many of the early residents of Greystanes were from Malta and many of them operated poultry farms. Three family poultry businesses from Greystanes became household names throughout Australia - Cordina Chickens, Baiada Chickens and Pace Farm Eggs.<sup>[5]</sup> Greystanes still has a large Maltese-Australian community. The Maltese community have hosted a Festa (Festa tal-Vitorja & Maria Bambina) every October since 1965 in and around the church. The Maltese community purchased the land and built a new church dedicated to Our Lady of Victories in 1975. The Maltese Festa has its origins in the religious festivals held annually in each village of Malta, celebrating the patron saint of the village. The church and parish were named after Our Lady of Victories, a beautifully hand crafted statue from Italy, a replica of Maria Bambina from Gozo. Despite hundreds of years of tradition, the clergy of the Catholic Church deemed it incorrect to have the moniker Victories attached to Our Lady. The church then became the Parish of Our Lady Queen of Peace. The statue is on display in the church and at the annual procession of the Maltese Festa.

## POPE FRANCIS' MESSAGE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

### NEWS FROM ADELAIDE

*Photo: CULTIVATING CO2: Lucia Fiocchini and Blackfriar Priory School teacher Oreste Farrugia returned last month to a native forest they helped to establish seven years ago at the Adelaide Parklands organized by the Archdiocese to help reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions. Photo: Nat Rogers*



**By Rebecca DiGirolamo**

Adelaide Catholic youth are embracing Pope Francis' environmental message as the Holy Father last month announced September 1 as the inaugural World Day Prayer for the Care of Creation.

The special day of world prayer will keep environmental issues on the global agenda in the lead up to the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris later this year and continues the momentum of the Pope's encyclical on the environment 'Laudato Si' released in June.

Pope Francis said September 1 provide people with precious opportunity to renew our personal participation in this vocation as custodians of creation.

Last month Mr Farrugia and nine-year old Lucia Fiocchini returned to a site near Veale Parklands where Gardens in the South where seven years ago they helped hundreds of locals and international students plant 6000 saplings.

Lucia was two at the time and Mr. Farrugia was the diocesan World Youth Day 2008 coordinator.

Lucia, a St Joseph School Kingswood student, said she is worried about the future estate of the environment and made an effort to live organically and respect the natural world.

*Courtesy of the SOUTHERN CROSS – The Catholic Newspaper in Adelaide: [www.adelaide.catholic.org.au](http://www.adelaide.catholic.org.au)*



## Filigree

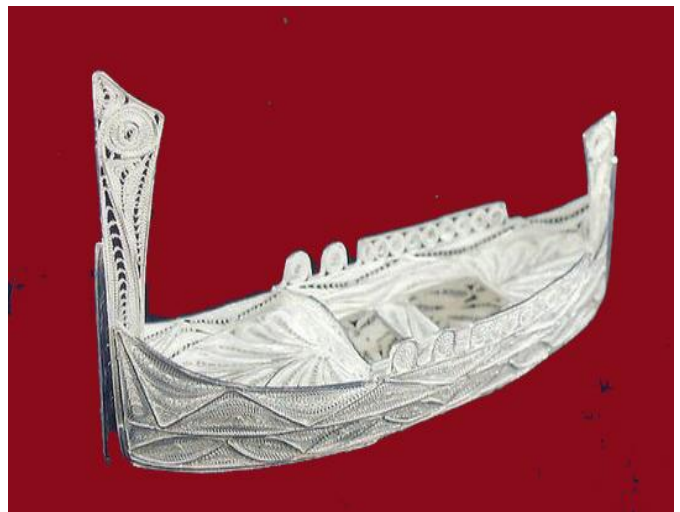
### TRADITIONAL MALTESE CRAFTS *The art of filigree*

The art of filigree can be traced back to ancient Egypt and can be found throughout the Mediterranean and Asia. Filigree is a delicate art of jewellery that involves the use of fine threads of gold or silver, woven together to create ornate motifs. More than most other types of jewellery, filigree is valued more for the artisan's skill than the actual material used. The more intricate and ornate the design, the more valuable the object.

Malta's filigree legacy dates back to the Phoenicians who spread this technique throughout the Mediterranean and beyond. However, local artisans have made it all their own, with the most prominent motif being the eight pointed cross. This ubiquitous symbol is found in different variations, with or without gemstones, gold or silver, and on bracelets, earrings, and brooches.

While filigree can be purchased at most jewellery shops around Malta and [Gozo](#), the experience of watching the jewellery being made there and then is not one to be missed. Whether at the **Ta' Qali Crafts Village**, or at any obliging jeweller, this delicate and fascinating process is worth watching.

While modern pieces with varying motifs, materials, and quality make an excellent gift, it is the antique pieces that represent the most value. If you're lucky enough to come across these rare pieces, don't pass up the opportunity to purchase a piece of Maltese heritage.



## All about Godwin Grech!

**Godwin Grech** is a former Australian Treasury official, best known for his role in the centre of the Utegate scandal in 2009. Grech grew up in Melbourne, the son of two Maltese immigrants. After graduating from a commerce degree at the University of Melbourne, Grech moved to Canberra to join the Australian Public Service.



His public sector career was split between the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Department of the Treasury. For the most part, Grech was close to the policy action of the Howard and Rudd Governments, and had a reputation as being highly diligent and reliable. However, in Prime Minister and Cabinet he handled a controversial Western Bulldogs grant in 2004, and in the Department of the Treasury, he was in the

middle of the 2009 OzCar affair, in which he forged an email to imply special treatment of Labor political donors. The OzCar affair forced his retirement from the public service in 2009.

Grech's parents, Sam and Giusa, were born in Malta in the 1930s and migrated to Australia to live in Altona, a suburb in western Melbourne. Both Godwin and his younger brother Dennis attended St. Paul's College, with Godwin graduating from the school in 1984. Godwin went on to study commerce at the University of Melbourne.

Directly after graduating university, Grech joined the Commonwealth Public Service. In the late 1990s Grech had executive assignments in Treasury's markets group, dealing with financial institutions and systems and with competition and market access policy. In 1998, he was briefly seconded to work in Joe Hockey's office when Hockey was financial services minister, although the secondment lasted only two weeks due to personal differences with another staffer. By 2003, Grech was general manager of Treasury's competition and consumer policy division.



Have you ever wondered about the origins of Godwin Grech? He who pulled the wool over the eyes of then Opposition Leader Malcolm Turnbull and now Prime Minister of Australia and Tasmania's Senator Eric Abetz, over the fake e-mail affair?

If they had done a little research, they might have been a tad more wary. Godwin is of old English origin and can mean either God's Friend or good friend. That's a tricky name for someone who indulges in political espionage. Mr Turnbull and Senator Abetz might have wondered if, perhaps, Mr Grech

was playing Devil's advocate when slipping them a dodgy document. Mr Grech comes from noble Maltese stock and is probably proud of his heritage.

Nothing wrong with that, but the sting in this tale lies in his coat of arms, as a google search reveals: The origins of the surname GRECH appear to ultimately lie in the latin word "Graecus" meaning "Greece". Thus the surname Grech denotes "descendant of the Greek". Malta's relations which Greece and Greek culture goes back to ancient times.



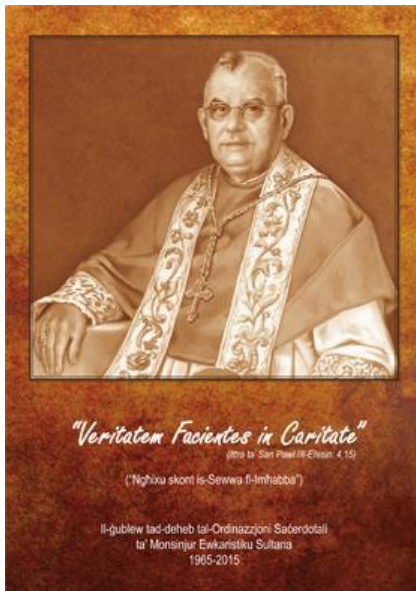
About 1000 B.C. a Phoenician colony was established on the island. In the year 736 B.C. they were occupied by the Greeks who called their colony Melita. During the division of the Roman Empire in 295 A.D. Malta was awarded to the Eastern Roman Empire and came under the rule of the Byzantine Emperors of Constantinople. One of the earliest references to the surname Grech, in its original form, is a record of one Joannis GRIKAS who was recorded in the year 1131.

The surname Grech has long been associated with the nobility of Malta with bearers of the name having their own family coat of arms, as described below. Blazon of arms: Azure with a tree between two scorpions; and on a chief sable; three mullets of the second.

Crest : A ducal coronet.

Origin: Malta

If Mr Turnbull and Senator Abetz had known, they might have been wary of someone wearing a ducal coronet with scorpions in his arms. And they just, might, have realised they were the mullets about to be stung.



**PUBLIKAZZJO  
NI DWAR  
\*IL-ĠUBLEW  
TAD-DEHEB  
TAL-  
ORDINAZZJON  
I  
SAĊERDOTALI  
TA'  
MONSINJUR  
EWKARISTIKU  
SULTANA:  
1965 – 2015**

Matul il-jiem li  
għaddew l-  
Arcipriet Emeritu

tax-Xagħra, Monsinjur Ewkaristiku Sultana fakkar il-**50 Sena** minn meta kien ġie ordnat Saċerdot. Biex dan l-avveniment importanti f'haġtu ma jintesiex kif ġieb u laħaq, l-avukat Aaron Attard Hili, iben ix-Xagħra u bil-kollaborazzjoni tal-Kan Dun Gwann Sultana, Rettur tal-Knisja ta' Sant Anton fl-istess raħal, Louis Bajada, Gużepi Cauchi, Hilda Chircop, Joseph Rapa, Carmelo Refalo, Gużepi Refalo u Melissa Marie Sultana, ippubblika ktieb li jgħib dan l-isem\* li jiftaħ tiegħa beraħ fuq il-ħajja ta' dan is-Saċerdot li bla dubju ħalliet impatt qawwi fuq il-poplu tax-Xagħra. Din il-pubblikazzjoni hija mqassma prinċipalment f'żewġ partijiet. L-ewwel parti toqot il-persuna ta' Dun Ewkaristiku mil-lenti sekulari filwaqt li t-tieni parti toqot sensiela ta' esperjenzi pastorali dwar ħidmietu fid-diversi oqsma tal-vokazzjoni reliġjuża, knisja missjunarja u l-evanġelizzazzjoni. Għalkemm jien minn mir-raħal tal-Bambina, lejn dan is-saċerdot minn dejjem kelli ammirazzjoni u stima għaliex minn dejjem niftakru mdawwar b'ċorma tfal li tant kien iħobb u jieħu ħsieb bil-għan li fihom inissel u jrawwam xi vokazzjoni saċerdotali jew reliġjuża. U dan, irrid nistqarr, imnaxxielu jagħmlu b'suċċess għax mix-Xagħra ħarġu u għadhom ħerġin għadd ta' vokazzjonijiet. Biżżejjed nillimita ruħi għal għadd ta' Arciprieti u Kapillani Għawdxin, l-iktar reċenti dak f'Ta' Sannat flimkien maż-żewġ Isqfijiet Patri Joe Bonello tal-Honduras u Patri Gorg Bugeja fil-Libja. Tassew għandu biex jifraħ Dun Ewkarist meta jħares lura għaliex l-għalqa tal-Mulej ipprovdilha bosta ħaddiema għalkemm ix-xogħol huwa kbir. F'Dun Karistu jgħogħobni ħafna wkoll id-don tal-kelma li ma ħalliehx riegħed iżda użah fuq diversi pulpti f'Malta u Għawdex.

Intant nista' ngħid li l-awtur għamel biċċa xogħol tajba ferm f'din il-pubblikazzjoni tiegħu li tiftaħ b'kelmtejn mill-Arcipriet tar-raħal (li bħalissa qed iżur l-emigranti Xagħrin

fl-Awstralja) Monsinjur Dun Karm Refalo li b'wiċċu minn quddiem jistqarr, li għalkemm fis-snin ta' wara l-Ordinazzjoni Saċerdotali u fit-tweġġ tal-Ministeru ta' Monsinjur Ewkaristiku Sultana d-dinja għaddiet minn taqlib intern u estern li ġab tibdil fil-ħajja soċjali u ekkleżjali partikularment wara l-Konċilju Vatikan it-Tieni, u li wassal għall-degradazzjoni fil-moralita' biex intilfu għadd ta' vokazzjonijiet saċerdotali, għall-ħajja kkonsagrata u għall-ħajja miżżewġa, madankollu, bil-grazzja t'Alla, dan is-Saċerdot imnaxxielu jaqdi l-ministeru tiegħu u jakkompanja lill-bniedem fid-diversi ċirkustanzi tal-ħajja. Hekk biss setgħu jgħid u jgħawmu vokazzjonijiet saċerdotali fil-parroċċa tax-Xagħra. Fil-Ministeru Saċerdotali tiegħu, Monsinjur Ewkaristiku Sultana kien dawl qalb id-dlam, kien serħan il-moħħ għal min hu għajjen, kien raġġ ta' tama u sostenn fil-fidi għal tant nies fil-bżonn. Kien Promotur tal-vokazzjonijiet u Predikatur assidwu tal-Kelma t'Alla f'diversi ċirkustanzi. Monsinjur Arcipriet Refalo jsostni li dan ħuh fis-saċerdozju u bħalu iben ix-Xagħra, sar il-bniedem t'Alla u mogħti għall-bniedem. Monsinjur Ewkaristiku Sultana mhux biss huwa wild ix-Xagħra, iżda wkoll l-Ewwel Arcipriet Xagħri, benefattur tal-Knisja u tal-Parroċċa u fuq kollox akkompanjatur spiritwali u uman ta' tant nies li l-Mulej għogħbu jlaqqgħu magħhom.

Għalkemm studja l-Liġi, illum Dr Aaron Attard Hili sar ukoll riċerkatur u storiku. Dan mhux l-ewwel xogħol tiegħu, apparti l-ħafna kitbiet u artikli li ta' spiss jagħti lil diversi gurnali u perġodiċi. Din il-pubblikazzjoni hija mżewġa wkoll b'għadd sabiħ ta' ritratti, uħud minnhom qed narawhom għall-ewwel darba, li jkomplu juruna l-persuna sħiħa ta' dan is-Saċerdot u l-ħajja varjata tiegħu u l-ħidma li wettaq fost ħutu x-Xagħrin u l-għadd kbir ta' proġetti u inizjattivi li huwa għamel. Hija publikazzjoni li bla dubju titkellem ukoll dwar il-ħajja soċjali tar-raħal għax bla dubju r-rwol tal-Parroċċa għandha mportanza qawwija fir-raħal.

Ĉert li dal-ktieb sallum diġa daħal fid-djar ta' bosta Xagħrin li għandhom għal qalbhom kemm il-parroċċa kif ukoll l-istorja tar-raħal, kif ukoll għand dawk li jħobbu l-istorja tal-Knisja f'pajjiżna. Biżżejjed insemmu l-Inkurunazzjoni tal-Bambina li ġrat fl-1973; kif tista' tħalli barra lil dan il-persunaġġ li tant ħadem sabiex isehħu l-festi dak inhar! Jalla għirtna tissokta tipproduċi iktar saċerdoti t-tip ta' Monsinjur Ewkaristiku Sultana li għalkemm issa qed jgħidha bil-piż tas-snin, għadna nsibuh jagħti seħmu fil-ħajja tal-Parroċċa u allura ma nistgħux ma nawgurawlux minn dawn il-kolonnati *Ad Multos Annos!*

**Kav Joe M Attard  
Rabat, Għawdex**



Belgium - At the heart of political life in Europe, multi-lingual Belgium has an international outlook that makes it a great place to be an expat. From fine chocolate and the Carpet of Flowers to comic strips and the Atomium, it's all here!

## BELGIUM CAPITAL: BRUSSELS

Population: approximately 11 million

Languages: Dutch (official) 60%, French (official) 40%, German (official) less than 1%, legally bilingual (Dutch and French)

Religions: Roman Catholic 75%, Protestant or other 25%

Currency: euro (EUR)

Timezone: GMT+1

Located in Western Europe between the Netherlands and France, with the North Sea to the west, Belgium enjoys a variety of landscapes, including coastal plains, rolling hills and a mountainous forested region. It consists of a federation of three distinct regions with their own culture and language: French-speaking Wallonia in the south, Dutch-speaking Flanders in the north, and Brussels, where both French and Dutch are spoken. Flanders and Wallonia have been granted formal autonomy and have a high degree of independence in public administration and the educational sphere.

The main cities of Flanders are the charming and picturesque medieval centres of Antwerp, Bruges and Ghent, with their cobbled streets and beautiful architecture. In this region the landscape is flat, and there is a network of canals.

Wallonia by contrast has lush hilly countryside and forest, and its characteristic enchanting castles. In this region of Belgium, the main centres of population are Leige, Namur and Tournai.

Brussels, the capital of Belgium, is a major cosmopolitan centre, being home to the headquarters of both NATO, the European Union and a number of multinational corporations, as well as a very large expatriate community from around the world.

Belgium is rich in culture, art and history, which are reflected in its mix of architectural styles, its many festivals, its abundance of museums, galleries and theatres and its famous battlefields and preserved trenches. It is also renowned for its excellent food and drink, particularly the beer and chocolate! Brussels is particularly famous for its many restaurants and lively nightlife.



## AUSTRALIA A DAY PARADE IN THE CITY OF ADELAIDE 26 JANUARY

*A group of  
Maltese/Australians who  
participated in the Australia  
Day Parade in Adelaide  
together with Jay Weatherill  
Premier of South Australia*

Australia Day is celebrated annually in the City of Adelaide, South Australia with a grand Parade, Concert at Elder Park and Fireworks!

Australia Day in the City is a great event where everyone can come together and celebrate what it means to be Australian.

The event begins with the country's largest Australia Day Parade - more than 42,000 people walked through the streets of Adelaide in 2014! The Parade participants a huge number of cultural and community groups. plus floats, roving performers, vintage vehicles, marching bands, a giant echidna and a fly-past by an F-18 Hornet! After making its way through city streets, the procession will converge on Elder Park at 7pm for the twilight Australia Day Concert.

Past concerts have included Aussie stars Ricki-Lee, Stan Walker, Jessica Mauboy, Kisschasy, Vanessa Amorosi and Carl Risely. The 2014 concert was headlined by Timomatic and supported by Sarah De Bono! Australia Day in the City is presented by the Australia Day Council of South Australia, with support from Adelaide City Council.



## BANK OF VALLETTA SUPPORTS CONCERT COMMEMORATING 90 YEARS OF FILM

BY GOZO NEWS · SEPTEMBER 22, 2015



The Malta Film Commission will be hosting a concert to commemorate Malta's contribution to the film industry over the past 90 years.

The Malta Philharmonic Orchestra, under the artistic direction of Brian Schembri and featuring Julie Zahra, will be performing a variety of world-renowned soundtracks from films that have shot in Malta. The concert will be held on Friday, the 25th and Saturday, the 26th September at the Mediterranean Conference Centre.

In line with its commitment to support the local Film Industry, Bank of Valletta said that it is extending its support to the Malta Film Commission for this concert.

"This year, Malta celebrates a very important milestone in its rich cinematic history – 90 years of Film. The commemorative concert under the artistic direction of international conductor Brian Schembri who will direct the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra to perform musical pieces from various films with scenes set in Malta such as "Midnight Express," "Troy," "Cut Island" and

"Gladiator," will mark a success in the industry particularly in recent years," said Engelbert Grech – Film Commissioner.

Speaking about the Bank's support for this concert, Kenneth Micallef, Head CEO's Office at Bank of Valletta said, "Bank of Valletta has always been at the forefront in supporting the business and in spearheading initiatives which seek to attract investment to Malta. The filming industry is one of the economic pillars with growth potential and it is a pleasure for Bank of Valletta to associate itself with the Malta Film Commission."



## THE LAMPUKI SEASON

The month of August is the beginning of the lampuki season which lasts till October. The valuable target is the lampuka fish, a highly popular, relatively inexpensive and staple food provision for Maltese kitchens as the last of the summer months dwindle to a close. However, the abundance of former years is under close scrutiny as changing climatic conditions and over-fishing threaten the presence of this fascinating fish in Maltese waters.

The lampuka is the Maltese name for the Yellow Fin Dorado, also known as the Mahi-Mahi in the Pacific region. It is traditionally abundant in Malta's territorial waters but also concentrated in the Pacific and around Australia. It's by no means a delicacy but has many advantages being fleshy, not intensively bony and can be cooked in each and every way whether fried, grilled, poached, made into fish cakes, used as a basic ingredient for Mediterranean Fish Soup or blended with fresh spinach in crusty pies. The early season catches of young lampuki are ideal for deep pan frying but it can later grow to enormous lengths and becomes rather "woody" but suitable for fish cakes and pies.

Malta's fishing communities are located mostly in the south of the island, Marsaxlokk being the principle village, followed closely by Zurrieq and Marsascala with the Gozitan fleet being located mostly in the north at Marsalforn and Xlendi.



At this time of the year activity is highly concentrated and the season is launched by the traditional blessing of the fleet by the local parish priest, a must for the superstitious fishing folk.

The lampuka is a surface fish. The method used by local fishermen is unique and harks back to Roman times. In late July fishermen cut and gather the larger, lower fronds from palm trees and weave them into large flat rafts, providing the surface cool that a lampuki school favours particularly around

mid-day to avoid the scorching sun. The fishermen stand off the rafts but within ten metres of them and begin to surround the school dragging a baited silicone squid jig line. When a lampuka is hooked it will be dragged alongside the boat. As the school swarms to surround the lure a large mesh net called

a "kannizzata" is thrown over the teeming fish and hauled in.

Competition amongst the fishermen is fierce and cut-throat and in some cases erupts into violence despite the fact that an allocation system has been used for the last 100 years whereby sectors are plotted and drawn by lots. Encroachment is not unusual, including that of local amateur fishermen who are often warned off with a rifle volley.

In the past, Tunisian and Sicilian fishermen ignored the lampuka as being non-worthy but with the increasing scarcity of fish throughout the Mediterranean Sea, they have now also turned their attention to the fish and armed Maltese patrol boats frequently clamp down on foreign encroachment, hauling offending boats back to Valletta with the Courts imposing heavy fines.

Since 2005 annual catches have been dwindling alarmingly for various reasons, greatly decreasing local availability and steadily pushing up prices. There have also been technique changes, primarily the use of synthetic palm fronds as the red palm weevil disease has had a devastating effect on palm trees and shrubs.

The lampuka's kitchen friendly attributes are a major part of its attraction. It is easy to clean and has no scales and can also be filleted easily. The early catches – when the lampuka is about a foot long – make the ideal frying dish. It is beheaded and tailed (these used to make ideal fish soup), halved, rolled in flour or semolina and then deep fried. The pieces are served topped by a light tomato salsa flavoured with garlic, capers and olives and garnished with lemon juice and fresh bay leaves. Accompanying French fries are a must.

When it grows it is again beheaded and tailed, sliced into three inch pieces which are then lightly boiled. When the pieces have cooled they are carefully filleted and mashed with pepper and salt garnishing and blended with boiled fresh spinach, garlic and sliced olives. The mash is placed in short pastry (one recipe includes the pastry being blended with red wine) and then baked as a pie.

This is my favourite use of lampuka: When the fish is at middle growth (two feet) I behead/tail and lightly poach or steam the three inch pieces, using the liquid for fish soup. When the pieces cool these are finely filleted, placed in strips in a dish and liberally garnished with olive oil, garlic, fresh mint, pepper and salt and lemon juice and a sprinkling of white wine. Before being served these are lightly grilled and served with French fries and broccoli or boiled courgettes and lashings of fresh Maltese bread...and of course a glass or two (or maybe three!) of cool white wine...and finally topped off with a welcome siesta if it's a lunch.

## AVVIZ IMPORTANTI GHALL-MALTIN LI JGHIXU BARRA

minn nhar it-Tnejn 28 ta'

Settembru fis-2.15pm

mit-Tnejn sal-Gimgha

fuq **RADJU MALTA 93.7fm**

**"BEJN IL-HBIEB"**

jekk tixtieq tippartecipa permezz tat-telefon,  
jekk joghgbok , ibaghtli messagg

fuq **79915113** ..... jew email fuq >>>>

**enzogusman@mail.com**

u aghtini numru tat-telefon **LANDLINE**

(mhux mobile/cellular) **u ncempillek jien !**

**INT FEJN INT FID-DINJA,**

**ISSA, TISTA' TKUN PARTI MINN**

**"BEJN IL-HBIEB" !!!**

nistenna minghandek....grazzi

*enzo*

## ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL IN SYDNEY WELCOMES THE MALTESE COMMUNITY TO CELEBRATE IL-VITORJA



Sunday the 13th September 2015, was a beautiful Spring morning when the Maltese Community travelled to Sydney from all areas of New South Wales including long distance country suburbs.

The Maltese Chaplains

together with Rev Fr Tarcisio Micallef MSSP Chaplain for the Maltese Community in the Archdiocese of Sydney, concelebrated Mass together, while Rev Fr Noel Bianco MSSP delivered the homily. The clergy concelebrating together were, Rev Fr Benedict Sant MSSP, Rev Fr Noel Bianco, Rev Fr John Briffa SDB, Rev Fr Frank Buhagiar from Victoria, Rev Fr Leonard Testa OFM Conv, and Rev Fr Laurie Cauchi PP of Malabar. Dr George Boffa SMOM, was the Master of Ceremony who narrated for the occasion. The



**H.E. Mr Charles Muscat**  
**Malta High Commissioner**

theme of this year was, 'The Year of the Consecrated Life.'

The procession commenced at 2.30 pm where, while the recital of the Rosary, the clergy together with those

who participated walked around the pews of the Cathedral. The colorful banners representing the many Maltese organizations accompanied by their respective members and children dressed in Maltese costumes following Miss Angela Xuereb, dressed as Malta in Armor costume, looked very much the Maltese atmosphere. The Sovereign Military Order of Malta Knights in their Knighthood robes, gave the occasion a significant of the day as it has also been the celebration of the 450th Anniversary since the siege of Malta. It has become a tradition that the SMOM participate annually during this celebration.

For this occasion there were a few invitees in attendance amongst them His Excellency Mr Charles Muscat High Commissioner for Malta, the Consular Officials Mrs Cecila Borg and Mrs Rita O'Dwyer, the President of the MCC Mr Lawrence and Mrs Marlene Dimech, Sr Georgina Sutlana OP, Sr Olivia Falzon OP, and Sr Grace Cini and the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the SMOM Knights and Dames.

Readings and the Second Reading read by Mrs Rita O'Dwyer in absence of the Consul General for Malta Mr Salvino Giusti who is on leave in Malta.

Other members from the community who participated in the Liturgy were, for the Prayers of the Faithful, Sr Georgina Sultana OP representing the Consecrated persons, Mr Lawrence Dimech who represented the MCC, and Mr Tony Pace-Feraud a member of the NSW Bowlers Association. The Offertory Procession was taken up by two members of the SMOM Knights who presented the Host and Wine. Sr Grace Cini of The Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus offered a candle with a prayer for those who were committed to the community and for the repose of the faithful departed, Br Charles Gaela a member of the MUZEUM, presented a ciborium representing the consecrated life, Maddison Lambert and John Xuereb took up grapes and wheat respectively.

The hymns were presented by the La Vallette Choir under their director Mr Victor Floridia. The MSSP helpers assisted Rev Fr Tarciso Micallef with the set up of the statue of Our Lady Maria Bambina at the Cathedral and participated with the carrying of the statue. His Excellency Mr Charles Muscat HC for Malta was invited to speak to the congregation as he could not attend the reception at the residence of the MSSP at De Pior House to meet the community as he had to leave to ACT early.

Rev Fr Tarciso Micallef MSSP invited the congregation to their residence for light refreshments prepared by the MSSP Helpers and a Maltese-Australian Women's Association Committee member. Members of the Don Bosco Past Pupils Association looked after the collection. Mrs Rtia Kassas was the photographer.

Another year when the Maltese Community came together even though there were many other religious functions being organized within the Diocese, the attendance was very good. Dr George Boffa SMOM thanked all those who participated in the preparation which led to the celebration, the media and all those who attended



## GĦAQDA PERSUNI NEQSIN MIS-SMIGH DEAF PEOPLE ASSOCIATION (MALTA)

### Merħba - Welcome

Welcome to the Deaf People Association's website. We represent around 400 D/deaf people in Malta. We are members of the European Union of the Deaf (EUD) and the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD).

### Association Aims

The aims of the Association are as follows:

- to ensure that Deaf persons have equal opportunities to live an independent life of the highest possible quality;
- to exert reasonable pressure on Maltese authorities to ensure that Deaf people have equal opportunities to enable them live an independent life of the highest possible quality;
- to investigate ways Deaf people can have equal opportunities;
- raise public awareness on how Maltese Society can change to offer equal opportunities to Deaf people to enable them live an independent life of the highest possible quality.
- disseminate information on existing facilities available to Deaf people;
- enter into partnership with Government, Authorities and Organizations that are consonant with the Association's aims;
- encourage international contacts with similar organizations abroad and takes part in international meetings

The Deaf People Association (Malta) is registered with the Office of the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations - VO/0021



Board Members from left to right: Matthew Pace, Annabelle Cauchi, Steven Mulvaney, Alison Vere and Loran Xuereb

**Kumitat 2014-2016**

President: Steven Mulvaney Secretary: Alison Vere Board Member: Annabelle Cauchi

Board Member: Loran Xuereb Treasurer: Matthew Pace

Consultant on Deafblind Issues: Fr. Cyril Axelrod

<http://www.deafmalta.com/>

**THANKS AND SEE YOU AGAIN – GRAZZI U NERGA NARAKOM DALWAQT**